

**Minutes
Finance Committee
November 14, 2019**

Present:

Tony Pesco, Committee Chair

Gina Albert, Committee Member

Ruby Hedge, Committee Member

Dr. William McKersie, Superintendent of Schools

Phil Cross, Director of Finance and Operations

Mike Rizzo, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services

Guests:

Dr. Craig Tunks, Director of Digital Learning and Innovation

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Pesco at 10:10 a.m.

The Committee discussed the following items regarding the monthly financial update including internal services fund (for dental):

- Mr. Cross reported a projected fund balance for FY 2020 of negative (\$506,101). Encumbrances total \$39,915,276 against a budget of \$53,073,710. The items contributing to the deficit are four additional SPED paras due to student needs. He added that mid-third quarter would be the best time to discuss whether or not any type of freeze may be necessary.
- Mr. Cross informed the Committee that the report reflects transfers totaling \$61,357.46. Of these transfers, three are in excess of \$5,000. These include \$15,000 for an executive leadership consultant, \$17,244 for an early retirement incentive, and \$19,626.46 for SPED ESY transportation.
- Regarding the Internal Services Fund, which now only includes dental, Mr. Cross reported that the current fund balance is \$1,380,488.

The Committee discussed the following regarding the monthly financial update on PPS/SPED:

- Mr. Rizzo reported that regarding special education out of district tuition and unilateral agreements for FY 2020, actual costs are \$513,572 but projected costs are \$1,717,227 for a total projection of \$2,663,595. This is against a budget of \$2,663,595.

The Committee discussed the following regarding tuition rates for the FY21 Hand-in-Hand Pre-K program:

- Mr. Cross presented the Committee with three options regarding a rate increase to the District's preschool program. The current annual tuition is \$6,250. These options include raising the annual tuition to \$6,723, which is based on the DRG A average, increasing it to \$7,253, which is based on the DRG A average of preschools with similar hours, and increasing it to \$6,359, which is based on a 1.75% CPI increase. The Committee suggested increasing the tuition to \$7,000 per year and agreed to bring this to the November Board of Education meeting for approval.

The Committee discussed the following regarding a transportation update:

- Dr. McKersie reported that the District met with a representative of First Student to discuss with them the fact that they have not been performing up to the level stipulated in their contract. Dr. Tunks added that in the past, the Transportation Coordinator handled the majority of transportation issues, including many of those which should have been handled by onsite First Student employees. Once that position was eliminated, there was a breakdown in the work flow. The District and First Student are currently working with these employees to give them the necessary training and technology to better perform their jobs. First Student has assured the District that they are committed to having everything up to par in five to six weeks, and Dr. Tunks has confirmed that things are running much better than they were at the beginning of the school year. He added that another issue is the age of the bus fleet and there have been several breakdowns because of this, but by the first week of January, half of the buses will be replaced with new ones. The second half will be replaced over the summer.
- The Committee agreed that future updates for transportation will be discussed at the Facilities Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the following regarding a modification to the FY21 budget calendar:

- The Committee discussed adding an interactive budget meeting with the public to the FY21 budget calendar. They agreed to bring this to the full Board of Education for discussion at their November meeting.

The Committee discussed the following regarding approval of the October minutes:

- The Committee approved the October minutes.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Andrew Galli

Administrative Assistant to the Director of Finance and Operations